

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROTECTING  
A NETWORK INTERFACE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system for protecting data transfers between a switch and physical network ports transfers data from a master network interface to a slave network interface, synchronizing the data transfer through a protection first in first out circuit that references the master clock and the slave clock. The master network interface improves ATM switch efficiency by supporting optical trunk and subtend ports for a digital subscriber line access multiplexer. The slave network interface provides back-up protection on a port basis so that a failed trunk port of the master network interface is backed up by the slave network interface even while the master network interface maintains a subtend port.